

In The Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). An outer air seal assembly for reducing leakage proximate a turbine engine blade tip having a predetermined direction of rotation, comprising:

a first outer air seal segment radially spaced apart from a central axis by a

5 predetermined first distance, said first outer air seal segment characterized by a first interface edge and an opposite second interface edge, said first outer air seal segment second edge being characterized by a radially-aligned portion and a radially-skewed portion extending rotationally-downstream therefrom;

a second outer air seal segment radially spaced apart from said central axis by a

10 predetermined second distance, said second outer air seal segment being characterized by a first interface edge and an opposite second interface edge, said second outer air seal segment first edge being characterized by a radially-aligned portion and a radially-skewed portion extending rotationally-downstream therefrom, said second outer air seal segment first edge being disposed proximate and substantially parallel to said first outer air seal segment second
15 edge and spaced apart therefrom by an interface gap disposed therebetween;

wherein said interface gap includes a radially-aligned portion and wherein said radially-skewed portion of said first outer air seal segment second edge extends beyond the plane of the second edge radially-aligned portion and protrudes substantially across said radially-aligned portion of said interface gap to cooperatively form a radially-skewed portion of said interface gap with said radially-skewed portion of said second outer air seal segment first edge, said interface gap radially-skewed portion being rotationally-downstream from said radially-aligned portion of second outer air seal segment first edge and having a radially-inward region and a radially-outward region, said radially-outward region being rotationally-upstream of said radially-inward region,

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whereby said radially-skewed portions of said outer air seal segment interface edges
are ~~constructed and arranged~~ adapted to cooperatively reduce radially-directed pulse loading
tendencies of a fluid passing radially away from ~~said a~~ blade and through said interface gap.

5 2 (Previously Amended). The outer air seal assembly of Claim 1, wherein said
interface gap separates said first and second outer air seal segments circumferentially.

3 (Original). The outer air seal assembly of Claim 2, further including a blocking panel
disposed within said interface gap.

10 4 (Canceled).

5 (Previously Presented). The outer air seal assembly of Claim 2, further including a
blocking panel disposed within said interface gap.

6 (Original). The outer air seal assembly of Claim 5, wherein said blocking panel is
disposed within said radially-aligned region.

15 7 (Original). The outer air seal assembly of Claim 2, further including a partition
member extending into said interface gap, wherein a serpentine-shaped pathway is formed
within said interference gap.

8 (Previously Amended). The outer air seal assembly of Claim 7, wherein said
partition member is disposed on said first outer air seal segment.

20 9 (Previously Amended). The outer air seal assembly of Claim 7, wherein said
partition member is disposed on said second outer air seal segment.

10 (Original). The outer air seal assembly of Claim 7, wherein said partition member is
oriented in a substantially-radially-aligned manner with respect to said central axis.

25 11 (Original). The outer air seal assembly of Claim 7, wherein said partition member is
oriented in a substantially-circumferentially-aligned manner with respect to said central axis.

12 (Previously Amended). The outer air seal assembly of Claim 2, wherein said first outer air seal segment further includes a radially-inward surface and a conduit adapted to fluidly connect a source of cooling fluid to said interface gap, whereby said interface gap is adapted to deliver cooling fluid to a location proximate said radially-inward surface.

5 13 (Original). The outer air seal assembly of Claim 12, wherein said conduit is fluidly connected to said radially-skewed portion.

14 (Previously Amended). The outer air seal assembly of Claim 2, wherein said second outer air seal segment further includes a radially-inward surface and a conduit adapted to fluidly connect a source of cooling fluid to said interface gap, whereby said interface gap is adapted to deliver cooling fluid to a location proximate said radially-inward surface.

15 (Original). The outer air seal assembly of Claim 14, wherein said conduit is fluidly connected to said radially-skewed portion.

16 (Currently Amended). An outer air seal assembly for reducing leakage proximate a fluid guide component having a predetermined direction of rotation, comprising:

15 a first outer air seal segment radially spaced apart from a central axis by a predetermined first distance, said first outer air seal segment characterized by a first interface edge, an opposite second interface edge, and a radially-inward surface, said first outer air seal segment second edge being characterized by a radially-aligned portion and a radially-skewed portion extending rotationally-downstream therefrom;

20 a second outer air seal segment radially spaced apart from said central axis by a predetermined second distance, said second outer air seal segment being characterized by a first interface edge, an opposite second interface edge, and a radially-inward surface;

said second outer air seal segment first edge being characterized by a radially-aligned portion and a radially-skewed portion extending rotationally-downstream therefrom, said second outer air seal segment first edge being disposed proximate and substantially parallel to said first

outer air seal segment second edge and spaced apart therefrom by an interface gap disposed therebetween;

wherein said interface gap includes a radially-aligned portion and wherein said radially-skewed portion of said first outer air seal segment second edge extends beyond the plane of
5 the second edge radially-aligned portion and protrudes substantially across said radially-aligned portion of said interface gap to cooperatively form a radially-skewed portion of said interface gap with said radially-skewed portion of said second outer air seal segment first edge, said
radially-skewed portion being rotationally-downstream from said radially-aligned portion of second outer air seal segment first edge and having a radially-inward region and a radially-
10 outward region, said radially-outward region being rotationally-upstream of said radially-inward region;

a blocking panel disposed within said interface gap;

a partition member partition member extending into said interface gap, wherein a serpentine-shaped pathway is formed within said interference gap; and

15 a conduit adapted to fluidly connect a source of cooling fluid to said interface gap, wherein said interface gap is adapted to deliver cooling fluid to a location proximate said radially-inward surfaces,

whereby said radially-skewed portions of said outer air seal segment interface edges
are ~~constructed and arranged~~ adapted to cooperatively reduce radially-directed pulse loading
20 tendencies of a fluid passing radially away from ~~said a~~ blade and through said interface gap.

17 (Original). The outer air seal assembly of Claim 1, wherein said interface gap separates said first and second outer air seal segments axially.

18 - 20 Cancelled.

21 (Previously Added). The outer air seal assembly of Claim 1, wherein said outer air seal segments are disposed radially-outward of and separated from a plurality of turbine engine fluid guide member assemblies.

5 22. (Previously Added). The outer air seal assembly of Claim 21, wherein said outer air seal segments are constructed and arranged to substantially encircle a stage of turbine engine blades and block fluid directed radially away from said blades.

23 (Previously Added). The outer air seal assembly of Claim 16, wherein said outer air seal segments are disposed radially-outward of and separated from a plurality of
10 turbine engine fluid guide member assemblies.

24. (Previously Added). The outer air seal assembly of Claim 23, wherein said outer air seal segments are constructed and arranged to substantially encircle a stage of turbine engine blades and block fluid directed radially away from said blades.